

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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DATE DISTR. 4 August 1952

SUBJECT 1. The 8 Infantry Division
2. Military Units in Stara Zagora
3. Military Units in Ruse

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The 8 Infantry Division

1. In early 1950, the headquarters of 8 Division was transferred from Stara Zagora to Khaskovo. In March 1951, the division had the following regiments:
 - a. The 12 Infantry Regiment, headquarters in Kharmanlii; prior to 1950, the headquarters of the regiment was in Stara Zagora;
 - b. The 23 Infantry Regiment, headquarters in Kazanluk;
 - c. The 30 Infantry Regiment, headquarters in Simeonovgrad; and
 - d. The 8 Artillery Regiment, headquarters somewhere in the Burgas district; in early 1950, the headquarters were transferred from Stara Zagora to Nova Zagora, later transferred to Sliven, and transferred to its present location in March 1951.
2. During June-August of each year, the headquarters of 8 Division, including the men of 12, 23, and 30 Regiments move to Gorna Panicherevo village (N4232 E2530), approximately 16 kilometers northeast of Stara Zagora. There are barracks and ammunition dumps in the area; the ammunition dump consists of small buildings and four underground warehouses located eight kilometers west of Gorna Panicherevo near Rashina village (N42315 E2528).

Military Units in Stara Zagora.

3. In March 1951, the following units had their headquarters in Stara Zagora:

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- a. An unidentified tank regiment; headquarters and men were occupying the barracks formerly occupied by 12 Infantry Regiment; the unit had Soviet T-34/85 tanks;
 - b. An unidentified antitank artillery regiment, occupying barracks formerly used by the artillery regiment of 8 Division;
 - c. An unidentified airborne battalion; headquarters and men were on the air-field which is located approximately five kilometers south-southeast of Stara Zagora near Kolyu Ganchevo village (N42235 E2539) and Mogila village (N4223 E2543); the field has six hangars, but no surfaced runway;¹ and
 - d. An unidentified supply battalion with workshops; the headquarters and men were in the barracks formerly occupied by the supply battalion of 8 Division.
4. An ammunition depot, consisting of 10 buildings surrounded by barbed wire, is located approximately 1,000 meters north of Stara Zagora. The tank unit in Stara Zagora guarded the depot.
5. In addition to a District Militia office and a local Militia office, Stara Zagora had the following units:
- a. The 8 Trudovak Section;²
 - b. The "Baykal" Interior Troops battalion;
 - c. Three Militia infantry units of approximately 35 men each; and
 - d. One motorized Militia unit.

Military Units in Ruse

6. As of December 1950, the following units had their headquarters in Ruse:
- a. The 5 Infantry Division;
 - b. The 5 Infantry Regiment;
 - c. The 1 Division Artillery Regiment; and
 - d. The 5 Supply Battalion.

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Comment: Probably a reference to 8 Trudovak Oblast. The term "oblast" is no longer used. It is believed that two oblasts were combined to form a Trudovak division.

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